Amendment in I.D. Act

2443. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the industrial Disputes Act in order to facilitate labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to consult the various State Governments and the different labour Unions before embarking upon this exercise;

(d) if so, what efforts have been made so far in this direction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Various amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about amendments to the Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

(c) to (e) Amendments in labour laws is a continuous process and involves consultation with the social partners. The amendment proposals in industrial Disputes Act have been discussed from time to time in various forums. To examine the new Industrial Relations Law, a Tripartite Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of late Shri G. Ramanujam, the then President of INTUC and subsequently a Bipartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shanti Patel, President HMS, was constituted. These Committees had representatives from Central Trade Union Organisations. The question of enacting a new Industrial Relations law was also discussed in the 31st Session of the Standing Labour Committee held in July, 1992 and also in the 33rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference in October, 1996.

Session of Tripartite Standing Labour Commission

2444. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 38th Session of the Tripartite Standing Labour Commission was held recently;

(b) whether the Trade Unions were highly critical of the move by Government to bring about far reaching changes in the labour laws without consulting them;

(c) if so, the details of the other issues discussed and the results thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to consult Trade Unions before making changes in Labour Laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The 38th Session of the Standing Labour Committee (SLC) was held on 10th May, 2002.

(b) Some Trade Unions expressed their apprehensions on bringing about amendments to certain labour laws by the Government.

(c) The main issues before the SLC were (i) review of Action Taken Reports on the conclusions of 37th Session of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) and the SLC and (ii) finalisation of the items of the agenda for the 38th Session of the ILC. The Committee decided to include the following items in the agenda for the 38th Session of the ILC.

(i) Impact of globalization on Indian economy particularly on employment and how to meet the challenges.

(ii) Social Safety net.

(iii) Disinvestment policy of Government.

(iv) Problems and challenges being faced by Small Scale Industries and their remedies.

(d) It has been the practice of the Government to consult social partners (*viz.* Central Trade Unions organisations and Central Employer's Organisations) on all policy issues. The views expressed during such consultation are given due consideration at the time of making changes in labour laws/policy.

Ratio of income and expenditure of wage earners

2445. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the ratio of income and expenditure of wage earners in respect of food, clothing, housing, medical and education in India and other developing countries?